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## PERISCOPE

### Eavesdropping on the Iranians

There was at least one secret reason for Jimmy Carter's failure to break diplomatic relations with Iran until early April, five months after U.S. hostages were taken in Teheran. During most of that period, U.S. intelligence used electronic eavesdropping devices to intercept messages between the Iranian Embassy in Washington and the Foreign Ministry in Teheran. As a result, the White House gleaned some sensitive information from Iran and acquired a working knowledge of how the Khomeini regime's representatives were perceiving events in Washington.

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